

Merry-Go-Round



By Drew Pearson

The New CIA Chief

ADMIRAL WILLIAM F. RABORN is such a nice guy that the Senate will doubtless confirm him as chief of Central Intelligence without much debate.

However, since his retirement Raborn has been steeped in the atmosphere Dwight D. Eisenhower blasted in his last message to the American people, when, on January 17, 1961, he warned of a dangerous alliance between the big military complex and the big defense complex.

The big defense complex from which Mr. Raborn came—Aerojet-General Tire-Polaris—went one step beyond Mr. Eisenhower's warning and also includes radio-television and newspapers.

In addition, Representative Edward Hebert, (Dem-La.), disclosed in a probe of defense lobbying that Aerojet employed 66 admirals, generals, and other retired officers, of whom 26 gave identical, evasive answers dictated by Aerojet when asked whether they had lobbied for defense contracts. Hebert never did get an answer on this point.

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RABORN WAS IN CHARGE of the Polaris missile program for the Navy from 1955 to 1963 and upon retirement walked over to the company which had the chief Polaris contract—Aerojet—to become its vice president in charge of Polaris production in California. He was not, however, one of those grilled by Hebert.

Relations between the Navy and Aerojet have been so chummy during part of Raborn's regime in the Navy that it has been difficult for Congressmen to fathom where the Government's business stopped and Aerojet's began. It was fairly easy to ascertain, however, that the taxpayers' interest was not being served.

The House Armed Services Committee discovered, for instance, that the Navy placed \$4 million in buildings on Aerojet property from 1946-52, and since the property could not readily be removed, it reverted to Aerojet.

Raborn was not in charge of the Polaris program at that time, but Dan Kimball, now president of Aerojet, was then Assistant Secretary and Secretary of the Navy.

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THIS DEFENSE CONTRACTOR background of the new chief of Central Intelligence is important because:

1. Representative Wright Patman (Dem-Tex.) has exposed some of the secret links between big business and the CIA.
2. The CIA operated through business blinds to secretly conduct one of the worst catastrophes in recent American history—the Bay of Pigs landing on Cuba.

In view of the fact that Congress has no check on Central Intelligence, it is important to scrutinize the background of its new chief.

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